



Some fear Loop 303 will be built next to homes

Jessica Coomes

The Arizona Republic

Nov. 20, 2007 06:25 AM

The state's two proposals for the swath of Loop 303 south of Interstate 10 depict the new highway veering west of Cotton Lane at its southern edge.

That left Maricopa County residents at a recent public hearing fearing the next leg of the highway eventually will come through their homes around Rainbow Valley Road, a route that is depicted in Goodyear's general plan.

South of I-10, the Arizona Department of Transportation has money to build four miles of Loop 303 to Arizona 801, a reliever highway that runs parallel to Maricopa County 85.

"The purpose and need is growth. Lots of growth," said Timothy Tait, a spokesman for the Arizona Department of Transportation, referring to Loop 303.

The state has narrowed its options for Loop 303's path:

- The corridor would follow Cotton Lane until about Lower Buckeye Road. South of there, the freeway veers west at an angle to meet Arizona 801 near the intersection with Citrus Road.

- The corridor would follow Cotton Lane the whole way to Arizona 801. It also would have a leg that jogs to the west, similar to what is proposed in the first option. However, the leg would be built only if and when Loop 303 is continued south of Arizona 801.

- Aside from the two proposals, Tait said the state could choose not to build a freeway at all.

He said the department's director should be making a decision about the corridor by early 2009.

Construction on the four-mile piece of Loop 303 would begin around 2018.

But for some Maricopa County residents who attended a public meeting with ADOT last week, the next segment of the freeway is most important.

"My main concern is where it goes south of there," said Jeff Briscoe, who attended the forum.

The state today does not have money to build Loop 303 south of Arizona 801. The state will have \$50 million to purchase land for the highway, but that money will not be available until at least 2021, Tait said.

If Loop 303 is continued south of Arizona 801, it is unlikely the freeway would run on its Cotton Lane corridor.

South of Arizona 801, a bridge is being built on Cotton Lane over the Gila River. The existence of a new, expensive bridge makes it unlikely the state will tear it down for the highway.

"Cotton Lane is not an issue," Tait said of sliding the Loop 303 route around the bridge. "We're showing very reasonable alternatives by avoiding Cotton Lane."

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Most people who are complaining will either move before 2018 or be dead. People need to chill and have a cerveza.

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Since the residents voted to have the 303 become a 'useable' freeway back in the '80's, all that has been accomplished is a death-trap that is overwhelmed with traffic and continued promises of improvement that will probably never happen in my lifetime. The monies approved to do this project kept getting moved to the east side of town and again, the westside 'orphans' are without.

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Just make a real freeway between us-60 and i-10. worry about the rest later.

2

8:20 AM

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I would recommend a halt on housing permits until 2020 when the infrastructure is available. As it stands now the I10 is jammed with semis, coyotes, and low wage earners.

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10:25 AM

ADOT & the County should build where ever they want if it benifits the public thats called eminent domain. But what people don't get is, when that area becomes crouded and people are complaining about freeways they need to look back and realize it was their fault. Most people will move out of their houses within a few years anyways because they get bored or it gets forclosed. They should take my friends advice and just have a cerveca and hope they give you a job to help build the freeway.

2



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Posted Nov-20
10:27 AM

Well Paco I guess you would be considered one of those low wage earners on the west side because you live in Tolleson. Or do you not work? How do you support your 11 children? Or am I supporting them?

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We all support each others kids, its funny poor families can raise kids that are not theirs, but working families can barely survive, thats why they are losing their homes.

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4:20 PM

The 303 IS a driver's nightmare, I used to live in Surprise, but the commute is RIDICULOUS!!!!!!

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2



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Posted Nov-20
10:56 PM

Buckeye - I enjoy government assistance which helps given the high cost of living in Tolleson. Now between us my income is six figures. I cannot file a tax return and it's not required for us. The drop house business has been solid.

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